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COMIC SHOP NEWS™



SOLDIER ZERO

DEATH COMES TO METROPOLIS

WRITTEN BY
PAUL CORNELL

ART BY
PETE WOODS

COVERS BY
DAVID FINCH

FROM THE PAGES OF
*THE
SANDMAN*

OCTOBER
2010



ACTION

COMICS #894

Take one wheelchair-bound ex-soldier. Add one alien parasite. What do you get?

A superhuman defender of the Earth known as Soldier Zero, that's what.

Take one comic book legend. Add an acclaimed comic book and television screenplay writer. Mix in a popular superhero illustrator best known for his work on DC's flagship characters. What do you get?

Stan Lee's *Soldier Zero*, the kickoff of a line of Lee-created superhero titles, that's what! *Soldier Zero*, the first Stan Lee title from Boom Studios, launches in October; it'll be followed later this year by *The Traveler* (by Mark Waid & Chad Hardin) and *Starborn* (by Chris Roberson & Khary Randolph).

Readers will always associate Stan Lee with Marvel Comics, but Lee's not tying himself down to just one company; instead, he's currently developing projects with both Boom and Archie Comics. Boom Publisher Ross Richie explained that Lee's involvement with Boom came about because "we have mutual friends... This gave Mark Waid and me an opportunity to meet Stan, and the partnership formed from there. I couldn't believe he didn't kick me out of the room, because Boom is a very young company and Stan is very accomplished."

Lee said that "these guys are great to work with. They create the books, but then they bring 'em to me and say 'What do you think of this idea? How do you like this bit? How do you feel about this art?' It felt like I was back in the Marvel Bullpen again, and I've never had a better time."

Cornell explained how he became involved with *Soldier Zero*. "Mark Waid approached me at the Gallifrey One Doctor Who convention in LA and asked me if I'd like to work with Stan Lee." He went on to explain that, when he signed his contract with DC, "I asked for an exemption from my exclusive for *Soldier Zero*. I mentioned that I had the



Zero Is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts

chance to work with Stan, and they were happy to oblige. It's the power of Stan!"

Cornell described Lee as "the man who basically taught me to read. He's one of the great tellers of tales for children—our Brothers Grimm. The way he takes a child by the hand and leads him into the fiction is timeless."

How involved was Lee with the series? "We had a character and a situation supplied by Stan," Cornell said. "I wrote a plot based on that, and added a supporting cast. From there, Stan approved, reacted, provided notes."



Cornell stressed that *Soldier Zero* is a contemporary work, not a nostalgia project. "There's nothing retro or pastiche about it; we're just using modern techniques to let Stan's eternal virtues shine through. Stan has eternal strengths as a creator of characters and drama. I heard 'the former warrior who's against fighting, forced to share his mind and body with a soldier,' and I thought 'I immediately get that.'"

"*Soldier Zero* reflects those storytelling skills, but added to modern comics techniques without a lot of in-jokes or pastiche or references to Stan's former work. This is like Rick Rubin producing Johnny Cash: you might have forgotten how good this man is—this is him right now."

Once Cornell signed on to the project, "I was able to have quite a bit of creative input. We went back and forth. Some of the details of the book, like Stewart being ex-military, are differ from what I talked about in the early interviews, because Stan came back with some new ideas—all excellent ones."

The star of *Soldier Zero* is "Stewart Travers, a former Marine paralyzed from the waist down after being wounded in combat. He now regards himself as a pacifist, and is active in trying to make the world 'sane' for people in wheelchairs, trying to change the environment he regards as his only disability. But then he's forced, in order to save both their lives, to bond with an alien soldier, which takes the form of armor; this alien soldier has lost its previous host/partner."

"The armor's the sole survivor of its unit, hunted down by the enemy. Its last host is killed when it falls to Earth. It merges with Stewart to get out of a burning building, and then needs his help to build a communications device to summon its own people."

"This interrelationship gives Stewart super powers, and enables him to walk for short periods of time. The alien's ruthless, but Stewart won't take a life, and now they share a group mind, together as Soldier Zero."

So why doesn't Stewart use the power of the armor to free him from his wheelchair permanently? "The armor doesn't have the energy for full mobility all the time," Cornell said. "And Stewart is conflicted about what it gives him; he knows it'll go home as soon as it can, and he feels awkward at the pleasure a walk to the store gives him, when he doesn't regard himself as lacking in his wheelchair life."

To ensure that Stewart's wheelchair experiences strike a real-world chord, "I'm bringing in the great comics creator Al Davison, who's a wheelchair-using martial artist, as our advisor, and I'm reaching out to other wheelchair-using comics fans, making that this is a comic that'll represent that community," Cornell said.

Where there's a super-soldier, there's also a super-conflict—and in this case, part of that conflict is almost cosmic in nature. "There are both alien and human threats coming after this alien crashed on Earth, and it and Stewart have to rely on each other to survive," Cornell said. "The enemy immediately comes after the armor. The background of the battle ties in with Boom's other 'Staniverse' titles. We're also setting up a classic villain in the origin story, and that there's an ensemble supporting cast forming around Stewart's job as a teaching assistant."

Soldier Zero is set in a world that has never had superheroes until now. And as this series is joined by *The Traveler* and *Starborn*, "though each book stands alone initially, it'll become clear they're all set in the same universe, new to heroes like this," Cornell said.

Does this mean that readers can look forward to crossovers between the three books? "Down the line, sure," Cornell said. "But we're determined initially to make each book its own experience, not some huge crossover."

At San Diego Comic-Con, Mark Waid said that Stan Lee and the writers hope to restore a sense of wonder to comics.

"Comics have become something like WWE wrestling matches, with good guys and bad guys, but the humanity gets lost," he said. "The idea that Stan, basically created the sort of characters we know today, who are working selflessly,

even though they make their own personal sacrifices - there's no sacrifice to being Superman, there's no real sacrifices to being Batman. But there are sacrifices to being a Stan Lee superhero."

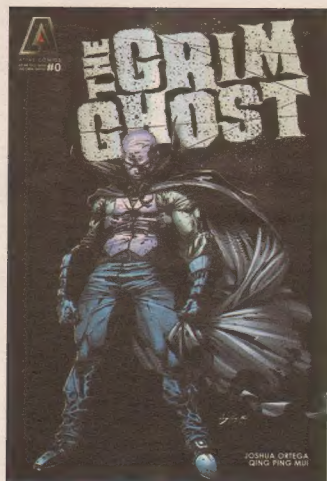
"There's something about Stan that's such a positive influence," Waid said.

"There's something about him that brings out that *joie de vivre*... there's not a cynical bone in his body. You get to embrace what's good in humanity."

Stan Lee's *Soldier Zero* #1, a \$3.99 comic by Stan Lee, Paul Cornell, & Javier Pina, is scheduled for mid-October release. The book will be offered with covers by Trevor Hairsine and Dave Johnson. In addition, Boom is offering a 1-for-25 cover by Phil Noto; a 1-for-50 "undressed" (that is, with no logo or overtype) Trevor Hairsine variant; a 1-for-75 "undressed" Dave Johnson variant; a 1-for-150 "undressed" variant by Phil Noto; and an ultra-rare 1-for-300 Stan Lee signed variant featuring art by Kalman Andrasofsky. Check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for info on price and availability.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!



Ardden Maps Out Atlas Plans

Atlas Comics will soon grace comic shop racks!

No, we're not talking about the Atlas Comics that predated the Marvel Age—but we are talking about a line of books published by Martin Goodman, the founder of Marvel Comics. Beginning in 1974, Goodman's Atlas Comics line offered a full line of titles, ranging from supernatural adventure (*The Grim Ghost*) to SF-horror (*Planet of the Vampires*) to Indiana-Jones-style adventure that actually predated *Indy* (*Scorpion*) to sword and sorcery (*Wulf*) to SF action (*Phoenix*)—you get the idea.

Beginning this fall, Jason Goodman, the grandson of Marvel and Atlas founder Martin Goodman, will relaunch the Atlas line in conjunction with Ardden Entertainment. The line will kick off with *The Grim Ghost* and *Phoenix*, with future titles joining the line throughout 2011.

"Although my grandfather eventually sold Marvel, he insisted on keeping Atlas Comics in the family," Jason Goodman said. "As a result of his vision, Atlas Comics is the largest individually-held library of comic book heroes and villains on the planet.

"We have twenty eight titles and hundreds of characters imagined by some of the greatest minds in the industry. They will now find a new life in comics, television, and movies. We are thrilled to finally bring these great characters back for the

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world to enjoy."

"Ardden has had success and critical acclaim for our own *Flash Gordon* and *Casper the Friendly Ghost* re-launches," Ardden co-presidents Richard Emms & Brendan Deneen said. "We are very excited to be working with Jason and his Atlas team on revisiting a group of characters created by some of the biggest names in the business."



The books will be helmed by editor-in-chief J.M. DeMatteis, a comics industry veteran who has worked with virtually every major publisher in a career that spans almost three decades. "The Atlas universe is filled with characters of tremendous potential," DeMatteis said. "I look forward to being a part of this relaunch as we re-imagine these wonderful characters and send them off on new adventures for the first time in thirty-five years."

To Be Stuck Outside of Bookmobile...

It's not uncommon for a best-selling author to write or co-write a graphic novel—Greg Rucka, Dean Koontz, Jim Butcher, Patricia MacKillip, Stephen King... the list goes on.

But it is uncommon for a best-selling author to both write and illustrate a graphic novel. However, that's just what Audrey Niffenegger has done with *The Night Bookmobile*. The acclaimed author of *The Time Traveler's Wife* supplies both the story and the art for this graphic novella, the first installment of a larger work in progress.

It comes as no surprise to Niffenegger's fans that she is an accomplished artist as well as a writer; her illustrations were prominently featured in her novel *The Three Incestuous Sisters*. What inspired her to progress from an illustrated novel to an original comics work?

"I am a visual artist," Niffenegger told CSN. "I trained as a printmaker, painter, and photographer and have degrees from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (BFA) and Northwestern (MFA). I've done illustration occasionally for years but usually I show my art in galleries. When I published my first novel, people thought it was peculiar for an artist to have written a book. You can see other examples of my art at my web site: audreyniffenegger.com.

"I drew comics as a teenager and have always been very interested not only in comics but in all visual book forms: artist's books, children's books, wordless novels, abecedaria, and so forth. I sometimes teach a class called Visual Narrative, which analyzes the properties and significance of a variety of narrative media, including comics."

Niffenegger also lettered the work, using an atypical, almost handwritten style for the dialogue

balloons, which contrasts with the more rigid, typeset approach to the narrative caption. What led to the use of two such opposing lettering styles, and why? "In the original (see the *Guardian's* web site) the narration typography was quite odd; no text boxes and integrated with the drawings rather differently. The designers at Abrams thought it was too odd and replaced it with what you see now," Niffenegger explained.

In total, writing and illustrating *The Night Bookmobile* "took about eight months. I was also writing *Her Fearful Symmetry* at the time. For me, eight months is very speedy—*Her Fearful Symmetry* took seven years."

Imagine a bookmobile that contains every book you've ever read. That's exactly what the protagonist of *The Night Bookmobile* discovers one night—and that inspires her to embark on a quest to find that bookmobile once again. "The *Night Bookmobile* began as a short story," Niffenegger said. "I adapted it into a comic when Lisa Allardice of *The London Guardian* asked me if I would like to try doing a serial for her *Review* section.



"The short story was written in 2004 and first appeared in *Zoetrope All-Story* in the 2004 Winter issue. The comic was commissioned by *The London Guardian* and ran as a weekly serial in their *Review* section in 2008."

While *The Night Bookmobile* is described by its publisher, Abrams, as a graphic novel, it's actually more of a graphic short story. Niffenegger explained the reason that the comic adaptation is so

SPIDER-MAN

style for the dialogue

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

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EDITORS Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
www.csnider.com
twitter.com/csnider



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short because "the story [from which it's adapted] had already been written. Lisa and the Guardian would have been open to a longer piece, but this seemed to me especially appropriate for *Review*, as it is so much about books and reading—and it gave me a chance to present a self-contained section of the longer work, *The Library*, which will eventually be the graphic equivalent of linked short stories. The second story, which is called *Moths of the New World*, concerns a stolen book."

When does the next part of this larger work-in-progress appear? "I'm not sure; I have a screenplay, a ballet, and another novel to work on before I can continue with *The Library*," Niffenegger said.

While the story is built around a reader's passion for books, *The Night Bookmobile* also touches in part on the dichotomy of the vicarious life of reading versus the reality of living—is there a bit of a cautionary tale here? "It is certainly both appreciative and cautionary: reading is enticing, reading can be dangerous," Niffenegger said. "I think most of us who have devoted ourselves to books have a keen sense of them as utopias, time-sucking diversions, bombs, and sentimental educations all at once."

Niffenegger describes the ultimate tone of the book as "ecstatic melancholy—after all Alex does achieve her desire, though not quite in the manner she envisioned."

Niffenegger isn't sure how her legions of loyal readers will respond to her work appearing as a graphic novel rather than a prose work. "Because *The Night Bookmobile* is just now being released as a book, I haven't yet had much feedback from readers... I'll be curious to see how novel readers like my comic."

The Night Bookmobile, a \$19.95 hardcover graphic novel, is currently available in comic shops and/or for special order.

White Indian No Longer Has Too Many Chiefs

A couple of months ago, both Dark Horse and Vanguard Press announced plans for *White Indian* collections reprinting the entirety of Frank Frazetta's run on the classic adventure series. Negotiations subsequently ensued, and those negotiations have culminated in an agreement that will see only one Frazetta *White Indian* volume, to be published by Vanguard Press.

When Vanguard first announced its agreement with Frank Frazetta to reprint his comics work, the acclaimed artist said at the time, "We've known Vanguard publisher J. David Spurlock for many years. It's a natural that we should work together. I'm looking forward to seeing the quality job they do on the new Frazetta books."

At the time, Spurlock explained that Vanguard would be "launching a line of Frazetta books under the new Vanguard Frazetta Classics brand. The line will include a series of volumes collecting Frazetta's comics work in top quality book format. Other Vanguard Frazetta Classics will include a new edition of the 2008 hit, *Frazetta—The Definitive Comic Shop News*

Reference, a Frank Frazetta Sketchbook; and more—all in library-quality collections fully authorized by Frank Frazetta."

Alas, Frazetta died before he could see the release of these volumes, but the contract agreements were already in place and the books will indeed see print.



So why did Dark Horse also announce a Frank Frazetta's *White Indian* book? Well, Dark Horse publisher Mike Richardson had spoken with the late Ellie Frazetta, Frank's wife, about the project. "I've done business with Frank and Ellie Frazetta since the early eighties," Richardson explained. "This project was a result of my discussions with Ellie and her desire to see us bring more of Frank's work into the marketplace. Sadly, things have changed with their passing and in order to avoid confusion and duplication we are canceling our own volume of his

work. Dark Horse and Vanguard both have been dedicated to promoting the rich heritage that, comics and their creators, have contributed to our culture. We are pleased to work this situation out with Vanguard and respect the wishes and agreements of the estate's representative, Frazetta LLC."

Under the agreement, Vanguard will release *The Complete Frazetta White Indian*, while Dark Horse will release a second volume reprinting all the post-Frazetta material starring Dan Brand, White Indian.

The companies have decided that Vanguard will release the Complete Frazetta White Indian and that Dark Horse will release a second volume collecting all of the post-Frazetta material featuring Dan Brand/White Indian. Vanguard publisher J. David Spurlock said, "We would like to thank our friends at Dark Horse for their creativity and dedication."

Spurlock discussed the reason for the delays in Vanguard's kickoff Frazetta volume, *Johnny Comet*. "Originally the Frazetta *Johnny Comet* was to be all black and white, shot from Frank Frazetta's personal proofs—but, for some reason, Frank had daily proofs but no Sundays, so we decided to run all the Sundays in full color from the printed strips. Easier said than done. Tracking down over fifty strips that ran in a limited number of papers over fifty years ago is quite an archeological expedition!"

"In addition, most papers ran the

Sundays as two-tier strips, but three-tier versions were produced, so much time went into not just finding strips for every Sunday, but diligently trying to find the rarer three-tier versions. Then we get to the scanning and cleanup process... All this unexpected work has delayed release of *Vanguard Frazetta Classics Vol 1: The Complete Johnny Comet* until Christmas.

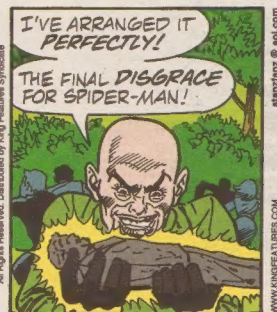
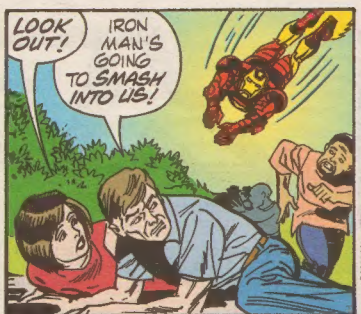
"The second volume of Vanguard Frazetta Classics will be *White Indian*. Diamond will announce an order adjustment for the Dark Horse orders announcing that orders will be filled with the Vanguard edition, which features state-of-the-art color separations on top quality paper. The Diamond announcement will also include an updated release date, which is currently expected to be March 2011."

Going Ape for All-Ages Comics

Ape Entertainment, who have already ventured into young readers' comics with their *Shrek* and *Penguins of Madagascar* titles, is adding two more all-ages properties to their kids-friendly imprint Kizoic. *Megamind* and *Kung Fu Panda 2* are the third and fourth Ape projects based on DreamWorks Animation properties.

"As soon as we caught a glimpse of *Megamind*, we knew we wanted to be involved in the comic book adaptation," Ape founder and co-publisher David Hedgecock said. "And *Kung Fu Panda* is a personal favorite of everyone at Ape Entertainment, so being able to work with the sequel has us all feeling like kids in a candy store."

Kizoic will first explore the world of *Megamind* with a 48-page prequel slated for October release, weeks ahead of the *Megamind* film release on November 5th.



THE RETURN OF THE BLACK LANTERNS!

JOHNS TOMASI REIS GLEASON SYAF CLARK PRADO FINCH

BRIGHTEST DAY

OCTOBER

- BRIGHTEST DAY # 11
- BRIGHTEST DAY # 12
- UNTOLD TALES OF
BLACKEST NIGHT # 1
- GREEN LANTERN #59
- GREEN ARROW # 5



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Their four-issue *Megamind* limited series will begin in mid-November. The publisher will follow a similar plan for their *Kung Fu Panda 2* book, with an April 2011-release prequel reaching comic shops weeks before the film's May 27th release, followed by a *Kung Fu Panda* four-part miniseries.

CSNsider

- Dynamite Entertainment publisher Nick Barrucci announced that the company has tapped Joe Madureira to supply a 1-in-4 cover for *Vampirella* #1, slated for November release; Aron Lusen will supply the color work for the Madureira cover. This marks Madureira's first work with Dynamite—but it won't be his last!
- John Romita Jr. has been tapped to supply the cover art for Rebellion's October-release *Judge Dredd: Mega-City Masters Volume 2*, which features stories by Grant Morrison, Garth Ennis, Mark Millar, Sean Phillips, Alan Grant, & John Wagner. The marks the first time JRJr has illustrated the dreddly judge.
- Paolo Rivera, not Chris Bachalo, will supply the cover art for the *Amazing Spider-Man* #646 Variant.
- The previously-announced *Shadowland: Power Man* #1 2nd Printing has been cancelled.
- Secret Warriors* #21 will now be penciled and inked by Andrea Mutti, not Mirko Colak.



•According to G4's *Attack of the Show*, the Black Panther will take Daredevil's place as the new "Man Without Fear" beginning in December with the release of *Black Panther: The Man Without Fear* #513, which picks up where the Daredevil numbering left off. According to G4, the book will be written by David Liss and illustrated by Francesco Francavilla. No word on what Marvel has in store for Matt Murdock, the former Man Without Fear—but we'll all probably learn much more when *Daredevil Reborn* launches in January, courtesy of Andy Diggle & Davide Gianfelice, with covers by Jock.



In-Spektor General

This fall, Dark Horse continues its reprinting of Gold Key hero/ adventure series with *Doctor Spektor Archives*, a four-book series that will reprint every appearance of the occult detective and monster hunter.

"*Doctor Spektor* takes the premise of a 'horror host' who introduces and narrates tales of terror and fright -- and then thrusts the host into his own weird adventures," Dark Horse collections editor Philip R. Simon told *newsarama.com*'s Chris Arrant. "It's kind of like taking a *spy* Vincent Price, getting him to tell a short tale of terror, and then giving him an assistant and shoving them into 1970s *X-Files*-style stories to investigate the truth behind the short story he just told.

"I've been in touch with [*Spektor* writer/creator] Don Glut, and Don told me that the series was originally supposed to be a cookie-cutter 'horror host' series, with *Spektor* introducing horror stories every issue and not having much more to do than that. But Don was breaking the rules from the start, trying to make *Doctor Spektor* a unique series, as opposed to something that was just 'ordered up' to copy other horror comic-books. So Dr. *Spektor* is seen in his first issue introducing a story, narrating a tale, but the scene shifts quickly, putting him in the action. In a few pages, we find out that *Spektor* is the star of the show, and

we're going on a adventure with him.

"Even though his editor didn't want *Spektor* to be the star of the show, Don made him that. When asked to refrain from writing continuing stories and having recurring characters, Don did the opposite. When asked to keep *Spektor* from having romantic relationships—well, Don didn't like that idea, either, and did the opposite over the course of the series. While the stylish pencil-and-ink work of Jesse Santos gives *Doctor Spektor* comics an undeniably unique look, Don's writing and civil disobedience really helped give the title its unique voice."

Simon said that the four *Doctor Spektor Archives* volumes will include every appearance of *Spektor*. Dark Horse is "making sure these collections are as complete as we can get them and that we have copies of some of the harder-to-find comics, like some *Golden Comics Digest* and *Mystery Comics Digest* issues..."

"What's really exciting to me, as an editor and a fan, is that Don has held on to some original *Jesse Santos* cover sketches and allowed us to scan and use those, too. So future editions of *Doctor Spektor Archives* will be running cover sketches, cover inks, and unused cover roughs for the first time ever. We only have a few of these gems to use, but when Don told me that he had them, it was like Christmas. I really enjoy packing as many bonus pages, behind-the-scenes progress pages, and sketches from the original creators that I can find into projects like these."

Look for the first volume of *Doctor Spektor Archives* in October.

Burroughs Comes to Comic Shops

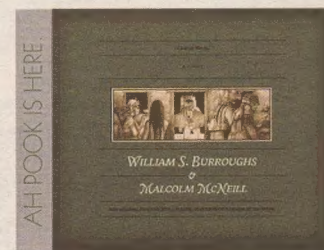
...And this time we're talking about William S. not Edgar Rice.

In mid-2011, Fantagraphics Books will release the only graphic novel written by William S. Burroughs, godfather of the beat movement and the author of the classic experimental novel *Naked Lunch*. Burroughs' "lost" graphic masterpiece, *Ah Pook Is Here*, created in collaboration with artist Malcolm McNeill in the 1970s, will be offered in a distinctive two-volume hinged set that will also include McNeill's *Observed While Falling*, a memoir of his collaboration with Burroughs.

Ah Pook Is Here was originally serialized in the 1970s as *The Unspeakable Mr. Hart* in the British magazine *Cyclops*. When the magazine folded, Burroughs

and McNeill decided to develop the strip into a full-length "word/image" novel (the term "graphic novel" had yet to be invented).

The book was conceived as a single painting in which text and images were combined in whatever form seemed appropriate to the narrative. The original plan was for the book to be published as 120 continuous pages that would "fold out." However, when they failed to find a publisher for the innovative project, Burroughs and McNeill eventually abandoned it after a seven-year collaboration.

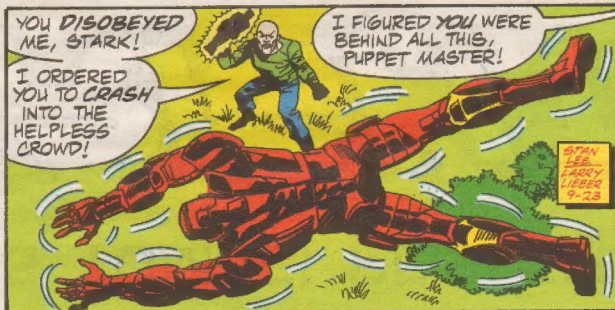


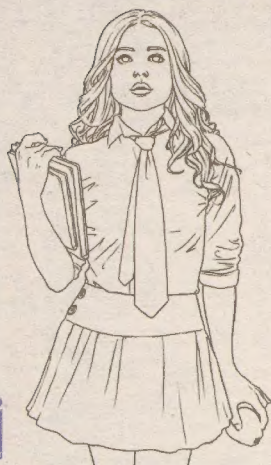
"It is singularly appropriate that after championing literate comics and the graphic novel form for over 30 years, Fantagraphics Books should bring a literary collaboration between one of America's most distinctive writers and his exemplary hand-chosen artist to light," Fantagraphics Publisher and acquiring editor Gary Groth said.

Ah Pook Is Here looks at time through the differing perceptions of the ancient Mayan and current Western mindsets. The main character, John Stanley Hart, is the "Ugly American" or "Instrument of Control"—a billionaire newspaper tycoon obsessed with discovering the means for achieving immortality. Based on the formulae contained in rediscovered Mayan books, he attempts to create a Media Control Machine using the images of Fear and Death. By increasing Control, however, he devalues time and invokes an implacable enemy: Ah Pook, the Mayan Death God.

"Fantagraphics is honored to bring this major work into print and to publish what is quite possibly the last great work from one of America's most original prose stylists," Groth added. "Burroughs once said that 'The purpose of writing is to make it happen.' We are proud to make *Ah Pook Is Here* finally happen."

Look for this unusual work in the summer of 2010.





nicie spencer - joe esima - robin asagoe

Back to Press

- **Guarding the Globe #1 2nd Printing** (JUL108190), in stores 9/29.
- **Image Firsts: The Walking Dead #1 2nd Printing** (FEB100327), in stores 10/6.
- **Morning Glories #1 3rd Printing** (JUL108157), in stores now.
- **Morning Glories #2 2nd Printing** (AUG108012), in stores 10/13.
- **Scarlet #2 2nd Printing Malev Variant** (JUL108212), in stores 10/13.
- **Shadowland #1 4th Printing Cassaday Sketch Variant** (JUL108213), in stores 10/13.
- **Shadowland #2 3rd Printing Cassaday Sketch Variant** (JUL108214), in stores 10/13.
- **Wolverine #1 2nd Printing Guedes Variant** (JUL108211), in stores 10/13.

Top Cow Bullish Over Minotaur

Later this year, Top Cow is reviving its sub-imprint devoted to cutting-edge independent-style series. Minotaur Press, best known for such series as *Obergeist* by Tony Harris & Dan Jolley and *Felon* by Greg Rucka & Matthew Clark, will return to the Top Cow line this fall.

The first two titles debuting in the upcoming Top Cow First Look trade paperback in October are *Echoes* (by Joshua Hale Fialkov & Rahsan Ekedal) and *Last Mortal* (by Filip Sablik, John Mahoney, & Thomas Nachlik). Both titles will come out in single issues under the Minotaur Press in late 2010 and 2011. Each of the upcoming Minotaur Press titles will be published with black, white and grayscale interiors, and showcase tales of suspense, horror, mystery, troubled characters and unsettling reflections of our own reality.

"We've been looking to expand Top Cow's publishing line for some time with a brand that focused on self-contained, cerebral stories," Top Cow Publisher Filip Sablik (co-writer of *Last Mortal*) said. "Revitalizing the Minotaur Press line is a perfect fit for properties like *Echoes* and *Last Mortal*. With these we hope to reach

a new audience and continue to evolve fans' perception of the Top Cow brand."

The return of the imprint is part of Top Cow's efforts to create three distinct, clear lines of comics: Top Cow Universe, which encompasses series such as *Witchblade*, *The Darkness*, and *Artifacts*, that take place in the shared Top Cow Universe; Top Cow Productions, which will include standalone color series such as *Mysterious Ways*, *Sunset*, and *Rest*; and lastly, Minotaur Press, which will act a home for darker, more nuanced stories.

Echoes follows a man who discovers his deceased father may have been a serial killer. When new bodies begin to surface, he's left to wonder if he has inherited his father's tendencies. *Echoes* reflects on sanity and ability to ever escape our family legacy.

Last Mortal deals with a small-time criminal who discovers, after trying to kill himself, that he is immortal. The series explores the search to find value in life when there is no easy way out.

Go West, Young Fan!

...Adam West, that is.

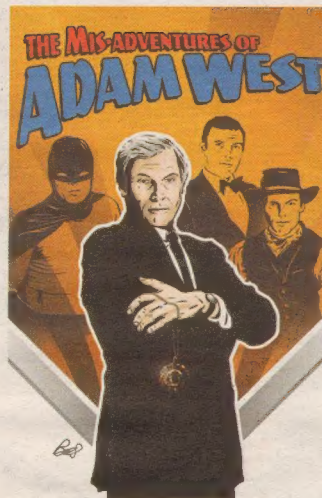
The veteran actor, a television legend for his portrayal of *Batman* in the fondly-remembered 1960s television series (which we all wish were available on DVD), has been indirectly involved with

comics for decades, appearing at conventions and giving interviews to his legions of fans—but 2011 will see West upgrade that involvement to a much more direct role with the launch of Bluewater Productions' *The Misadventures of Adam West*.

Unlike Bluewater's *William Shatner* projects (which feature new stories based on Shatner's concepts), *The Misadventures of Adam West* will star the popular-culture superstar in a tale that Bluewater describes as "The Man, The Myth, The Amulet... When a mysterious fan delivers an exotic amulet to Mr. West's doorstep, he is Dorothy-fied on an odyssey that will change his career, his love life and inadvertently make him the man who saves the universe!"

West is quite enthusiastic to star in the series, which he is also co-writing. "I am really impressed with Bluewater's creative team and vision. They have morphed me and it didn't even hurt! Bluewater has taken me full circle from playing a famous comic book character to being one.

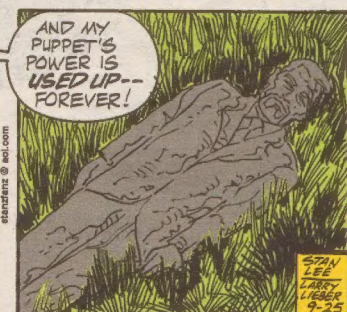
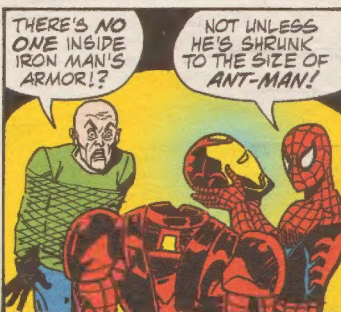
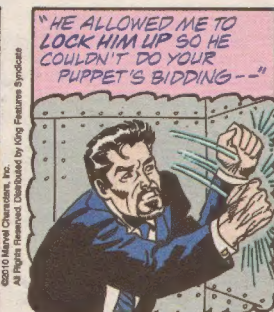
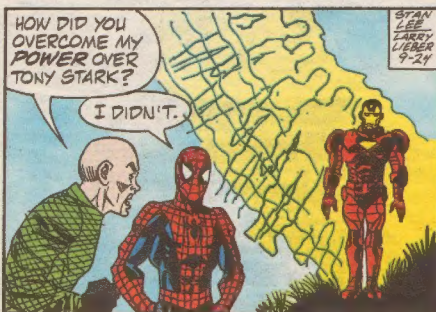
Fascinating! I'm in my own comic book and I love what goes on there. Wait 'til you get a load of the wild and unique situations they've put me in and how they mix it with reality. What a jolt it is to see some of my fantasies come to life right in front of us."



"Adam West is a worldwide icon and we are honored to be working one-on-one with him on these books" Bluewater publisher Darren G. Davis said. "We are creating this not only as a comic book, but as a brand. We have interest already in the television world as well as an action figure coming out from Go Hero and Zica Toys."

Joining West on *The Misadventures of Adam West* will be co-writers Walter Fernandez Jr. & Arastao Maree, with art by William Shatner Presents TekWar illustrator Lipe. Look for the first issue in the spring of 2011.

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